

The Sun.

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Tartarus Africanus.

Dr. LYMAN ABBOTT'S instructor in constitutional law has turned up again in British East Africa and the despatches. He was "carrying on an animated conversation" (monologue). He was followed recently by a small army of jackals and a detachment of warhogs, and undoubtedly expressed much satisfaction with the forcible dental arrangements of the latter. "Several heads of almost tame Thomsoni gazelles" were "well fenced in" and thereby protected from the Wild Huntsman. The fowls of the air were less fortunate. "The Colonel brought down two Egyptian geese." This seems inhuman and unfraternal, but we are to record, not to judge. Besides, the Australian Arunta are known to eat their totem at certain times. We are told, but refuse to believe, that TARTARUS indulged in some "effective shooting" among the geese. For eight years these innocents have flocked around him in innumerable multitudes. Why should he butcher the faithful? The pelican, the common pelican, that emblem of piety, fell indeed before that falcon eye. The crane bent his long legs and wept in vain for mercy. The scarlet gumpo, the imperial loobie, even that rarest of African birds the concatenated hoohoo, surrendered at sight and before TARTARUS had time to take it. No wonder Dr. ABBOTT'S professor of constitutional law was "much pleased."

Happy, happy TARTARUS! And yet why will the correspondents continue to "lie" about him? For instance: "Colonel ROOSEVELT occupied the bow." He occupied the whole bow; rowed, steered, bailed, and gave lessons in navigation to the boatmen swimming at the stern. For another instance: "He inquired into all the results of the various experiments in the crossing of stock." Impossible! What has he to learn? No other man has made such successful experiments in double crossing stock, and bonds too, for that matter.

One Danger Averted.

It is with great relief we learn that if it is proved that Dr. COOK has put the north pole in pickle there is no danger of its being foisted on our fellow countrymen as a national possession. Into how many minds was thrust by the first report of the Doctor's adventure the terrifying thought that here was another "non-contiguous" territory to be governed, administered and legislated for at Washington we shall not attempt to say. The number must have been very great.

Manifest destiny and other enemies of peace and comfort have involved the United States in numerous troubles. Fate, however, has been kind in this Arctic incident and saved Americans from themselves. If COOK found it, they need not find it; there is no obligation on them to lead the pole and the poles into the bright ways of civilization. That affliction is escaped.

Yet man is born to vain regrets. What an admirable thing it would be to appoint as Governor-General of the North Pole, with headquarters thereat, that genial statesman SETH LOW!

The Thunderer on Art.

Whatever the outcome of the select committee that is inquiring into the censorship of plays, the investigation is affording a lot of fun to the members, who seem to be taking their task none too seriously, and to the public as well. All sorts of men have had a chance to air their views, authors, actors, critics and men about town, and the Speaker of the House of Commons has been summoned in his official capacity to give evidence. With Mr. G. BERNARD SHAW, Mr. HALL CAINE, Sir W. S. GILBERT, Sir BRENDON TEE and their numerous colleagues on the stand, all aware of the public gaze, brilliant remarks were to be expected; but the London Times has been as amusing, in a different way to be sure, in the solemn "leaders" with which it has enriched the discussion.

The latest contribution of the Times is the elucidation of a remark dropped by Mr. WALKLEY, its capable dramatic critic, in his testimony before the committee. Mr. WALKLEY expressed his opinion that the importance of art, and especially of the drama, is overrated nowadays, and that we take such things too solemnly, an opinion which we fancy he is not alone in holding. Editorially, however, the Times finds it necessary to modify this opinion: "No doubt he was thinking mainly of the art which is concerned with the expression of ideas and which is supposed to be important because it tries to express new ideas." This is only fair to Mr. WALKLEY, who might be hard put to conceive of an art that does not express ideas.

That is the characteristic, nevertheless,

less, as the Times assures us, of "popular" art. It asserts that: "If music had not been a popular art for centuries in Germany there could never have been a Beethoven. If painting had not been a popular art in Italy for centuries MICHELANGELO could never have painted his frescoes on the roof of the Sistine Chapel. If the drama had not been a popular art in England for centuries SHAKESPEARE could never have written 'Hamlet.' The master and the technique of the master are only possible after generations of obscure and humble effort, which would never have been made unless there had been a popular demand for it."

A statement that lends itself admirably to high school or intercollegiate debate, together with its corollary:

"But art would be still important to the life of man if none of these great masterpieces had been produced. If MICHELANGELO and SHAKESPEARE and BEETHOVEN had never lived; and it would be important because man cannot do without it in its simpler and more popular forms."

Here we regret to find the Times turning away from its homily to deal a swat at the unlucky nineteenth century. That century is not yet ten years dead, but these new writers, born and bred in the twentieth century, can think only of its darkness and ignorance. The nineteenth century, it seems, believed that the world was outgrowing art, a belief contrary to all the facts.

"There was just as much popular art as ever, perhaps more; only it became bad instead of good. The people of this country have as much music as ever they had; only they have music like tunes instead of folk-songs. There is abundant ornament on their walls and clothes and objects of daily use, but most of it is machine made. So strong is the instinct of man to ornament everything connected with his daily life that he cannot devise good ornament he will always devise bad. That is the artistic instinct which not even the nineteenth century has been able to suppress, and which, therefore, we may assume to be, like love, as strong as death."

With this the censor, the select committee, Mr. WALKLEY and what the Times thinks he thought fad away to make room for a rhapsody on the future of Britain beautified according to the Times's conception of popular art.

What Next?

The extraordinary performances of the aviators at Reims have naturally stimulated curiosity as to what WILBUR WRIGHT and CURTISS, who have been engaged by the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission to give exhibition flights during the celebration, can do to surpass the records recently made in France. Less than their own high standard of achievement they dare not adventure.

If the commission had secured the services of less prominent and notable aviators there could reasonably be little expectation in the matter, but WILBUR WRIGHT and CURTISS have few if any equals in their art. No aviator has been more conspicuously identified with the development of the heavier than air machine than WILBUR WRIGHT. To him and his brother the credit is unquestionably due of making the first practical demonstration of the aeroplane, and the first flights which appeared in a large way to the imagination and challenged the admiration of the world were those of WILBUR WRIGHT in France last summer, culminating on the last day of the year in a two hour flight. Until last week this flight remained unsurpassed in duration.

GLENN H. CURTISS in turn has won the international cup and therefore holds as to speed the blue ribbon of aerial racing. Both aviators have demonstrated that a successful flight is no longer a mere matter of chance, but can be expected with reasonable certainty whenever attempted.

Their coming flights will be under extraordinary and most stimulating auspices. Where thousands witnessed the flights at Reims and Fort Myer, the flights in New York will be witnessed by millions. No more imposing natural theatre could be suggested for such a spectacle than the harbor of New York, and from the banks of its rivers, the streets of its cities and the roofs of the houses countless thousands of eyes will follow with eager and expectant interest the flights of these well known aviators.

The conditions, moreover, will put CURTISS and WRIGHT on their mettle and give them an unexampled opportunity to demonstrate the practical possibilities of the aeroplane. It is obvious that to fly around a racetrack, however remarkable to a generation which less than ten years ago regarded such an achievement as beyond possibility, is one thing, and to fly over the harbor of a great and populous city, with the inevitable complications of such an environment, is quite another. BLERIOT's flight across the Channel probably appealed more to the imagination of men than any other achievement in aviation, but it was not so remarkable as the flight of ORVILLE WRIGHT at Fort Myer, when with a passenger in his biplane he crossed a rough and varied country from Fort Myer to Alexandria and return. The varying elevations of trees, buildings and other structures presented a problem of much greater difficulty than the flight across an even expanse of water in which the only uncertain currents of air were those encountered when nearing the cliffs of England. In ORVILLE WRIGHT's flight the currents of air were affected by the varying elevations of the earth and the character of the surface.

In the coming flights in this city problems will confront the daring aviators such as have never hitherto confronted the aeroplane. While they will fly over water, it will be over a harbor crowded with the warships and merchant marine of many nations. How far the currents of the air will be affected by these conditions time alone can tell; moreover, the effect upon the currents of the air of a teeming industrial city must be reckoned with, and in this great game of aerial golf there will be among many unusual hazards the three great bridges that span the East River.

Possibly no part of the coming celebration will be of greater interest or value than the results of these attempts to navigate the air in the heart of a populous city. If the aeroplane is more than a scientific toy or the plaything of

men who love exceptional hazard, it must sooner or later meet the problems in propulsion which are presented by a great city. Until a motor can be invented upon which absolute reliance can be placed it is obvious that a flight over the roofs of a city would be foolhardy in the extreme, and no reasonable man should expect either CURTISS or WRIGHT to attempt such a flight. What can be reasonably expected is flights over the waters surrounding New York, and these present many interesting and alluring possibilities.

If the aeroplanes start from Governors Island, as has been planned, a flight to the Atlantic Highlands would be equivalent to BLERIOT's flight across the Channel. A flight up the Hudson River to Clermont, a distance of 110 miles, would exactly parallel the first voyage of FULTON's steamboat. That took twenty-four hours. If the aeroplane can make the distance at all it could readily be done in three hours. The distance is not greater than that covered by FARMAN in his recent flight at Reims. Another interesting possibility is a complete circuit of Manhattan Island.

These flights should be of special interest to the War Department, as they may demonstrate the possible use of the aeroplane in time of war. If New York were blockaded it is conceivable that an aeroplane could do immense harm to the blockading fleet by the swiftness of its operations and by its destructive possibilities.

One other possibility for surpassing the extraordinary results at Reims is open to both CURTISS and WILBUR WRIGHT. Hitherto the aeroplanes have not ascended above 500 feet, unless LATHAM's altitude above the Channel is to be excepted; but it has been said that there is no mechanical difficulty in going to far greater heights. Here is an easy opportunity for another world's record, and possibly either CURTISS or WRIGHT may leave Governors Island and ascend to a far greater height than has heretofore been attained.

The reputation of both aviators will to some extent depend upon the nature of their achievements at the coming celebration. Neither can afford to disappoint reasonable expectation. With their movements followed by the representatives of many nations and by the greatest gallery that the world has ever seen on such an occasion, and with the natural but friendly rivalry which the results at Reims have stimulated between CURTISS and WRIGHT, it is reasonable to expect some aerial achievement in this city which may be another milestone in the ever accelerating march of human progress.

Colonel Bryan Is Not Overcome.

It is not difficult to understand Colonel WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN's surprise and regret over the refusal of President TAFT to urge the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution providing for the popular election of United States Senators. Mr. TAFT having joyfully followed Colonel BRYAN in his policies in regard to a tax on corporations and an income tax, the Nebraska had every reason to believe that his victorious Ohio opponent would gladly go another step toward the destruction of the States, particularly as Mr. TAFT has declared himself to be personally in favor of this particular assault on our present political system.

But Colonel BRYAN is not too surprised, nor is he so far overcome by regret as to lose sight of the advertising value of Mr. TAFT's timorous balking. Indeed, Colonel BRYAN never overlooks the advertising value of any possible projection of himself into the affairs of State. He uses Mr. TAFT as Miss GOLDMAN does the police, to keep alive public interest and to attract customers. Of what great value on the Chautauque circuit must be a letter from the President, no matter what its content!

So the Colonel weeps for the shortcomings of Mr. TAFT, and mourns, but not in the closet. Weeping and mourning of this kind are valuable commercial assets, and the Colonel is entirely able to see wherein they will not do injury to the Fairview bank account.

Signers.

October 19, 1909, will be a proud and purple day in American annals. The Descendants of the Signers—not of "the pledge," but of the Declaration of Independence—will assemble solemnly and joyfully at Yorktown, Va., commemorate the one hundred and twenty-eighth anniversary of the surrender of CORNWALLIS, prepare, no doubt, for even higher jinks at the one hundred and thirtieth, and diffuse patriotism and respect for pedigrees and be photographed copiously.

A harmless, even a beneficent programme. Not for universes would we have the surly and galling disposition of the Springfield Republican, which pretends that "there is no particular reason for the celebration except the desire of the Signers to come to the front." How can a Descendant of a Signer help "coming to the front"? His signature can be read there, we suppose, visibly impressed, or in relief on him elsewhere. The light that shines around him, the aura and the aroma of "blood," the pride of his carriage, the patriotic cast of his countenance sign and vouch for him as clearly as the "D. S. D. I." on his signet ring and his shirt bosom.

Thank heaven, a family tree longer than CY SULLOWAY is within the reach of every American that has the price. ROCKEFELLER outdoes the feudal system. STEVE ELKINS has a Hispano-Mauresque name, and springs originally, we believe, from Tarifa. LA FOLLETTE belongs to the younger branch of the great mediæval house of FEUFOLLETS and ESPRITS-FOLLETS, not yet extinct if somewhat reduced from their pristine grandeur. And so on. All we are sprung from ancient kings, we worship them with more than Chinese piety, and invent them on occasion in quantities to suit.

Hail, then, to the austere and august brotherhood of Descendants of the Sign-

ers, the trousered or petticoated incarnations of the noble eighteenth century "truth" that all men were created equal. Why must these gifts be revealed to Yorktown and hidden from New York? Can't there be a parade of Descendants on Broadway and the Fifth Avenue?

We want to look at them merely. They are too good for human nature's daily food. Yes, for everyday use we should prefer the Bagmen of Bagdad.

The discussion about the ownership of the north pole, where Dr. FREDERICK A. COOK says that he raised the Stars and Stripes on April 21, 1909, is not carried on by Government officials at Washington with much warmth. The flag must have been blown down, torn into shreds in fact, and every thread of it lost in the polar ice or the Arctic currents long ago. The Melville-Bryant oak sent adrift in 1899 is supposed to have been swept past the north pole, within a hundred miles of it, and the oak was picked up thousands of miles away. There is no knowing where the remains of a flag planted at the north pole may be in a winter or two, perhaps on the coasts of half a score of countries.

OUR INHOSPITABLE FRONTIER.

Where Even the Best Tempered Citizens Become Vicious.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: It is not easy to accept decorously of the experience the traveler has to endure when entering this country from Europe. I beg to endorse and approve the entire letter signed "An Old American."

I crossed the Atlantic Ocean thirty-eight times, travelled extensively, having made seven tours into Africa and six into Asia; and I have crossed international frontiers something like five hundred times, having been in every European country, including Russia, more than twenty times each. I mention this to show my qualifications for speaking of custom house inspection.

In no country of the world where I have ever been is there any treatment of those crossing the frontier that will for one moment compare with ours. For annoyance, trouble, and occasionally an unintentional insult, ours is by far the worst. I doubt whether even in Russia, where the examination is exceedingly strict, it is so often possible for the traveler to be insulted as they are on entering this country.

When I say insulted "by law," I refer to the requirement of making declaration, taken in connection with the subsequent examination of baggage, which is a cover for contraband articles; their presence or absence is proven logically by the declaration previously made; the search is solely to try to prove that the passenger is making his declaration, and for no other purpose.

I may add that notwithstanding all the trouble caused to those who enter this country the examination is notoriously inefficient; compared with it the English method of search is a masterpiece of trouble-making, far more likely to discover contraband articles.

It seems amazing that such a process as countless citizens have to submit to should have been allowed to exist so long. I often make the remark that the only time I am in danger of losing my temper from the time I leave this country until I return is when I am confronted by the abominable and stupid formalities, now apparently being removed, that meet me when I return to my own country after an absence, long or short, in other parts of the world.

PHILIP G. PHAROUDY.

BOSTON, September 2.

Crazes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In the middle of the last century a political wave swept over the country and the party promised to carry everything before it. The violence of the wave was so great that it was short lived, and in a year or two the impetuous man had a know nothing or in a way, even the slightest, of the country, and the party was considered a disgrace to be vigorously repelled. So thoroughly discredited was it that very shortly no trace of the organization could be found.

Later another wave swept over the country, and the greenback craze held the nation in its grip. Then came an extraordinary craze as any of the preceding—the silver craze—which swept like a whirlwind. This craze was the craze of the day, and it led to national dishonor. Hence more sweeping should be the denunciation. Strongly as the Know Nothing and other crazes were denied by their dupes, equally strongly the victims of the Bryan craze were denied by those who followed it. The Roosevelt craze is simmering. When the revelation of the magnitude of the humbug comes it will sweep the recollection of the others out of sight by its tempestuousity. New York, September 3. E. T. W.

The Shell and the Pilgrim.

From the London Chronicle.

It is remarkable how faithfully some of our old London customs are handed down to successive generations of youngsters. Take, for instance, the custom associated with the request, "Please remember the groto." It is only once a year. Probably none of the children who have wailed us, oyster shell in hand, during the last few days are aware that they are keeping up a custom which dates back to the medieval period, when the oyster shell was the badge of the pilgrims who resorted from all parts of Christendom to the shrine of St. James the Apostle at Compostella.

The custom of the pilgrim is accounted for in a legend which relates that when the relics of the saint were miraculously conveyed from Jerusalem to Spain in a ship built in the city of Compostella, the ship was wrecked and the saint's body was thrown into the sea with its relic. The saint was rescued, and taken on board the ship, when his clothes were found covered with oyster shells, being covered with a sign were these relic adopted as the pilgrim's badge.

Woman Suffrage in Iceland.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The General Synod of the clergy of Iceland lately assembled in the "Thingval," where the Parliament or Althing is held, and the following resolution was adopted: "The Synod affirms its full approval of the claim of women to equal political rights with men."

The women of Iceland have had a vote in church affairs for many years. They also enjoy municipal suffrage, and a quarter of the municipal council of each of the four cities are women. The President of the last Parliament spoke for woman suffrage, and every member of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution is said to favor granting full parliamentary suffrage to women. ALICE M. BLACKWELL.

DORCHESTER, Mass., September 2.

The Mystery of Special Counsel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Why is it that the Special Counsel, who is supposed to be a confidential adviser to the President, is not mentioned in the public press? He is a man of great ability, and his services are of great value to the Government. He is a man of great ability, and his services are of great value to the Government. He is a man of great ability, and his services are of great value to the Government.

NEW YORK, September 3. N. POLS.

Gleams of Prophecy for Labor Day.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Forecast for New York and Rhode Island, Tuesday, September 6, and heavy showers on September 6, Labor Day. THOMAS HENRY JR., Astrologer and Astronomer. CENTRAL PALACE, N. Y., September 1.

A Voice From the Shades.

OVERSEAS, Sept. 3.—It is obvious that Dr. Cook has not reached the north pole, declared the able of John C. Cleveland to-day. It is proved conclusively, is a hole in the ground.

WHAT WILL TAFT SAY?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: As the time draws nearer when the President will begin his long journey, solitude increases among his conservative friends over the opinions and arguments he will use in vindication or explanation of the recommendations he has made to Congress. Will he stand by his views of constitutional questions expressed while on the Federal bench, or by their unoriginal modifications promulgated after he exchanged judicial occupations at home for the exercise of worldwide power in the colonies, after his exposure to the infection of Rooseveltism by Cabinet association and after he had for one reason or another been saddled with "my policies?" The most alarming of these recommendations concern taxation by Congress and are contained in the special message of June 16. The opinion therein expressed that the tariff must be revised and an adequate income secured, qualified as it was by an intimation that such an income could not be had by import duties, and therefore a "graduated" inheritance tax must be adopted, was the primal source of subsequent party troubles. The inevitable tendency of such death taxes is to siphon into the national treasury invested capital which private industries need.

Lawyers in attendance on the recent convention in this city felt that had those who controlled the last session of Congress been so minded ample revenue could have been obtained from tariff schedules framed on the lines prescribed by the Chicago platform.

When several of the States would not tolerate a surrender of death taxes to Congress, and threatened to instruct their Senators, the President's proposition fell like an aeroplane fractured in midair. Then the President's opposition in the Senate had its innings with an unapportioned general income tax to meet the deficit likely to flow from the new Republican tariff.

The President told Congress that it should have the power to enact such an income tax, but he objected to the enactment at that time. He had not considered an amendment of the Constitution necessary to the exercise of "certain phases of this power," but further consideration had satisfied him that it was needed for exercise of the power "to its full extent." Therefore he said it would be "wiser" to accept the Supreme Court decision of 1895, and then nullify it by an amendment of the Constitution. He wrote to Congress that he was satisfied "a great majority of the people" (not the Legislatures of the States) would approve that course.

As an additional maneuver to head off an unapportioned general income tax Mr. TAFT recommended an excise tax on State corporations, which he said the Supreme Court had left open to Congress, and which "accomplishes," he added, "the same purpose as a corporation income tax." His opinion was that the tax he urged would be a tax "on privilege, and not a direct tax on property." A merit of his excise tax would be, he went on to say, that thereby would come Federal supervision over "the business transactions of all corporations." That motive would in the view of lawyers recently in this city make the tax a dishonest tax even if constitutional.

The President's plan for Congress to tax the "privilege" or franchise of an instrumentality of a State was jettisoned by the Senate Finance Committee, and in place of it was taken on board a plan to lay an excise tax on the "business" of every corporation equivalent to a certain percentage upon the entire net income over \$50,000.

It is a profound mystery how a lawyer of the high repute which Mr. Taft had when he left the Federal bench could have given advice to Congress to tax an agency of a State unless he felt constrained as an executor of the nationalism of his immediate predecessor in office. He was familiar with the famous opinion of the Supreme Court uttered in 1819 by Marshall in the bank case, that its incorporation was permitted by the Constitution because it was an instrumentality of the Federal Government in the discharge of fiscal functions, and taxation of one of the bank's branches by Maryland was forbidden by the Constitution because a power to tax is a power to destroy. He also knew of repeated decisions by the same court that the States could not tax an instrumentality of a State any more than it could tax an agent of Congress.

It may be that the Supreme Court, following its decisions in the Thomas stamp tax case and in the Spreckels case, both given on the same day of 1904, will declare the corporation tax of the last session of Congress an excise tax that need not be apportioned, but such decision will not make it any the less repugnant to the Constitution if it taxes an instrumentality of a State or if it violates the requirement, in an indirect tax, of equality, uniformity and uniformity.

All taxes which the Constitution permits Congress to lay must if direct be apportioned among the States, or if indirect, it stands to common sense that a tax is not equal, impartial and uniform if it lays different rates, or exempts in one case and taxes in another, on subjects in the same field of competition and on persons engaged in the same business.

A tax is not uniform that aids one person and destroys another. It would be a very uncommon sense of justice if a corporation and a partnership, a man and a woman, a red haired man and a black haired man, a white man and a black man, or a Christian and a Jew, were engaged in precisely the same class of business and Congress were to tax one more or less than the other. It would be an intolerable usurpation of power by Congress.

The country is waiting to hear what the President will have to say on those phases of his corporation tax, as well as on his recommendation that the States surrender to Congress the power to lay an unapportioned tax on incomes derived from the rent of real estate and invested property. One reason therefor that he gave to Congress was that such a power was "disproportionate to the nation's life in great crisis"; but the proposed amendment is not limited to such a crisis. On the contrary, it gives to any President a Roosevelt, a Bryan, or a Deba—having a bare majority of Congress on his side—the power to inflict the tax at any time and for any partisan or sectional or socialistic purpose. Can President Taft think that wise and expedient?

The existing Constitution confers on Congress power in case of emergency to demand from each State its prescribed quota of any total sum of direct taxes, with an alternative of enforcing payment on each State if it refuses. If the Constitution is to be maintained, as he has proposed, can the President doubt that it will end in making of the present Constitution a consolidated empire like, for example, Russia, France, or the British kingdom? A general income tax, with no exemptions and not graduated, may be an ideal tax.

for Michigan or New York, as single States; but if Congress shall have a concurrent power over incomes in the States, Congress will be paramount, each State must give way to it and take only what Congress does not take. Can two such powers of direct taxation long exist together?

It will be with intense solicitude that conservative men, who are profoundly sincere in wishing well to the President, will await what he has to say to the States west of the Mississippi on the scheme of taxation he has urged Congress to enact. He will be on second thoughts, meditating with an anxious mind in that relation of the Constitution under which there is such an abundance of prosperity that has carried the United States triumphantly through three foreign wars and one domestic convulsion and has projected State beyond State, thirteen to forty-six, from the Alleghenies to the Pacific, like star beyond star in the firmament above them. Will he not urge the new States in the West, now sovereign, each of them, as the Supreme Court has defined their sovereignty, to stand by the decisions of the court that was so relied upon by the framers of the Constitution? Will he not attempt to annul any of them by amending the fundamental law so that tribal law has interpreted it?

DELEGATE.

DENVER, Mich., September 1.

PENALIZING AT REIMS.

Conditions Prescribed by the Management a Source of Mystification.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Although I could hardly pass for a "sport" I take the keenest interest in aviation and I was delighted to read of the triumph of CURTISS at Reims.

I was also delighted to hear that those logical Frenchmen had added five minutes to the time it took him to cover the air course. To quote:

"CURTISS went out for the speed prize at 3:30 and covered eighteen miles in 24 minutes 15 seconds, but being under a penalty of 10 per cent, in addition to 5 per cent, each for not contesting on Sunday and Tuesday in the same race, his official time became 27 minutes 24 seconds. The committee declared that he was driving a different aeroplane from the one he used on his previous appearance in this race, so he was penalized another 5 per cent, making his time 29 minutes 12 seconds."

If CURTISS had not shown up at all until the day of the race I suppose that he would (quite rightly) have made his official time 2 hours and 45 minutes, or something like that.

While all this is logical, I would like to suggest that instead of figuring in time they should have figured in height. We will say that CURTISS actually flies 500 feet into the air, and that the Frenchmen are "penalized" a hundred feet deduction for every day in which they have failed to do so.

There have been contests on succeeding days and CURTISS has not been present; therefore, the judges have "penalized" his elevation, and we find that CURTISS, although he has actually flown higher than any of his competitors, has "officially" not left the ground.

These "handicaps" always strike a layman as being a little odd. CURTISS, in a life saving contest, A. B. and C. jump into the water and save a child each, while D. saves none, but owing to the fact that D. has not been present at the previous contests he is officially shown not to have saved. The child is buried, and the French are logical!

CHARLES RATTALL LOOMIS.

LEONIA, N. J., September 3.

CHURCH STATISTICS.

Members and Property of Expanding Denominations.

Proof sheets of a United States Census Bureau bulletin prepared by William C. Hunt, chief statistician, show that the population, in 1900, was 76,000,000. In 1903 numbered nearly thirty-three millions (32,800,000); that the sum of \$1,200,000,000 was invested in church edifices; that every eight minutes of their lives, the people of the United States formed considerably less than half the total church membership; that a larger percentage of Catholic males than Protestant males were married; that owing to the fact that the majority of the total church membership was Roman Catholic, but that of the grand total of church members reported for the country 61.5 per cent. were Protestants and 38.5 per cent. Roman Catholics. This is the first time that the United States Census statistics of church membership by sex have been collected—resulting in a showing of 53.1 per cent. males and 46.9 per cent. females. The Protestant membership is 20.9 per cent. of the total, and the Roman Catholic 49.3 per cent. of the total membership.

Of the 32,800,000 church members 20,287,742 are Protestants and 12,512,258 are Roman Catholics. Of the Protestant members 1,400,000 are Methodists, 1,400,000 are Baptists, 5,600,000 are Lutherans, 2,100,000 are Presbyterians, 1,500,000 are the Disciples or Christians, 1,100,000 are the Latter Day Saints (Mormons), the Lutherans, 1,100,000 are the Episcopalians, 1,100,000 are the United Brethren, 1,100,000 are the Wesleyan Methodists, 1,100,000 are the American Baptists, 1,100,000 are the American Presbyterians, 1,100,000 are the American Methodists, 1,100,000 are the American Episcopalians, 1,100,000 are the American United Brethren, 1,100,000 are the American Wesleyan Methodists, 1,100,000 are the American American Baptists, 1,100,000 are the American American Presbyterians, 1,100,000 are the American American Methodists, 1,100,000 are the American American Episcopalians, 1,100,000 are the American American United Brethren, 1,100,000 are the American American Wesleyan Methodists, 1,100,000 are the American American American Baptists, 1,10